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PROCEEDINGS

OF A ✓

PUBLIC MEETING,

HELD AT THE

COURT HOUSE,

IN THE

Town of Niagara,

IN THE

NIAGARA DISTRICT,

ON

SATURDAY, 31st MARCH, 1832:

PURSUANT TO A REQUISITION OF THE SHERIFF.

NIAGARA, 1832.

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PUBLIC MEETING.

ATA MEETING of the Inhabitants of the Niagara District, held at the Court House in the Town of Niagara, on the 31st Day of March, 1832, pursuant to the following Requisition :—

NOTICE.

AT the request of a number of the most respectable Yeomanry of the District of Niagara, I hereby give Notice, that a Meeting will take place on Saturday, 31st day of March, instant, at the Court House, in the Town of Niagara, at 12 o'clock, noon, to take into consideration the present state of the Province, and to adopt an Address to his Majesty, King WILLIAM the Fourth, expressive of public opinion on matters connected with the prosperity and welfare of the Province.

JOHN KIDD, *Sheriff,*

Acting in the absence of
RICHARD LEONARD.

Niagara, 24th March, 1832.

MR. JOHN KIDD, Acting Sheriff, read the Notice, and directed the Meeting to appoint a Chairman and proceed to their deliberations.

MR. JAMES COOPER was nominated by Mr. Lewis Clement, and seconded by Mr. P. V. C. Secord.—Mr. Wm. WOODRUFF was nominated and seconded—upon which a division was called ; but owing to the confusion and impossibility of correctly deciding in favour of either Candidate, the Sheriff desired the Meeting to adjourn outside, in front of the Court House ; at which place Mr. Cooper was again proposed, and Elected Chairman, and Mr. Wm. D. MILLER appointed Secretary.

Robert Dickson, Esq. then addressed the Meeting at some length—explaining the object of assembling on that occasion—elucidated the subjects he intended to propose certain Resolutions upon—and then introduced them severally in the following order—and afterwards submitted the ADDRESS to His Majesty founded on those Resolutions for Adoption :—

RESOLUTIONS.

Proposed by Robert Dickson, Esq. seconded by Dr. Muirhead, and carried unanimously—

1st. RESOLVED—That the Inhabitants of the District of Niagara, in the Province of Upper Canada, are well aware that the true Constitutional channel of approaching His Majesty by Public Address, is, through the Popular Branch of the Legislature : but, at the present crisis of Political dissention, when the tranquility of the Province is

disturbed by the insidious attempts of disaffected and discontented Demagogues, to alienate the affections of a happy and contented People from their allegiance to their King—We trust that His Majesty will pardon any unusual or irregular course adopted by his subjects, to express their disapprobation of such seditious principles.

2d. **RESOLVED**—That an alarming excitement has been created through the Province, by means of Religious Fanaticism and the exertions of designing and restless individuals; who, by misrepresentation and a base system of open and avowed opposition to British Rule, would, if misrepresentation were permitted to prevail uncontradicted, disseminate principles leading to anarchy and confusion, and ultimately sever this Colony from the British Crown—seconded by Geo. Ball, Esq.

3d. **RESOLVED**—That the Inhabitants of the District of Niagara deem it a duty they owe to their King, their Country of adoption and birth, and to themselves, to express in the most unequivocal terms their just indignation at men whose actions and words cannot fail to convince unprejudiced minds, that they aim at disobedience to the Civil Magistrate, and set at defiance peace, order and good Government—seconded by Geo. Adams, Esq.

4th. **RESOLVED**—That up to this late period the loyal Inhabitants of the District of Niagara have intentionally abstained from any public expression of indignation at the seditious acts and selfish designs of the intriguing votaries of Democracy, convinced that the loyalty of the Inhabitants of this old and wealthy District, after the privations and sufferings they have already endured in defence of His Majesty's Possessions during the late War, fighting under the immortal BROCK, would, to latest posterity, ensure the confidence of their King—seconded by Thomas Butler, Esq.

5th. **RESOLVED**—That, as descendants from British Ancestors, and many of us Britons by birth, we boast of that origin which claims affinity and allegiance to the British Crown.—seconded by Wm. Crooks, Esq.

6th. **Resolved**—That we repose unlimited confidence in the Representative of His Majesty the Lieutenant Governor of this Province, who, since he assumed the Administration, has constitutionally and impartially maintained our civil and religious immunities unimpaired, and the dignity of his exalted situation sacred; thereby, affording the Subject and the Sovereign every assurance that individual rights and the Prerogatives of the Crown are equally protected, and, if duly appreciated, cannot fail to make Upper Canadians happy and contented subjects—seconded by D. McDougal, Esq.

7th. Resolved—That we have held in reverence, and ever will hold sacred and unimpaired, our Government, framed by British Statesmen, the very image and transcript of England's Constitution, conferred upon our ancestors under the auspices and Reign of His Majesty's Parent, of glorious memory, King George the Third, preserved inviolate to us during the memorable Reign of his Illustrious Predecessors, and at this epoch of political and religious troubles, is, and will continue to be, the Bulwark of Upper Canadian Civil and Religious Liberty—seconded by Lewis Clement.

8th. Resolved—That we disclaim the opinion that, because we inhabit a Colony remote from the Parent State, and excluded, by our Geographical Position, from a direct intercourse, by sea, with other countries, we are, therefore, not equally interested with other Subjects of His Majesty, in every event that can tend to the strength and prosperity of the Empire, and at all times equally bound to share in the damages and misfortunes of any war which may be necessary to vindicate the Honor of His Majesty's Crown, or to maintain the Rights of the British Nation.—Seconded by Mr. John C. Ball.

9th. Resolved—That His Majesty's faithful Subjects, the Inhabitants of this District, venture to hope that His Majesty will be graciously pleased to listen to these our sincere and undisguised Representations communicated to His Majesty's Royal Ear, in confirmation of our Love for King and Constitution, and to beseech His Majesty's Government to receive with suspicion the Representations of visionary Enthusiasts, and not "to sacrifice substance to form, the end to the means, or exchange present possessions for uncertain prospects"—seconded by H. Nellis, Esq.

10th. RESOLVED—That we are contented with our present happy condition and appreciate the Blessings we have already enjoyed; and looking forward to Your Majesty's most gracious disposition to perpetuate the continuance of them uninterrupted to Your Majesty's loyal subjects in Upper Canada, we fervently supplicate the Almighty Disposer of all Events to prolong Your Majesty's valuable life, and that HE would enable You, for years to come, to continue to sway a Sceptre that is the pride of Kings and envy of the World—seconded by John Crooks, Esq.

11th. RESOLVED—That an Address to His Majesty King William the Fourth, be founded on the foregoing Resolutions; and that the same be prepared and submitted for signatures forthwith—and the same be signed by Freeholders and British Subjects only—seconded by Mr. Jas. Lockhart.

**TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT
MAJESTY :**

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN :

WE, Your Majesty's Dutiful and Loyal Subjects, the Inhabitants of the District of Niagara, in the Province of Upper Canada—Humbly ask permission to lay at the Foot of the **THRONE**, these our sincere expressions of Loyalty and Attachment for Your Royal Person, and our increasing admiration of the Constitution of the mighty Empire, the Sceptre of Your Majesty's controuls.

We are well aware, Most Gracious Sovereign, that the true Constitutional channel of approaching Your Majesty by public **ADDRESS**, is, through the Popular Branch of the Legislature; but, at the present crisis of Political dissension, when the tranquility of the Province is disturbed by the insidious attempts of disaffected and discontented Demagogues, to alienate the Affections of a happy and contented People from their Allegiance to their **KING**—Your Majesty, we trust, will pardon any unusual or irregular course adopted by Your Subjects, to express their disapprobation of such seditious principles.

WE lament to inform Your Majesty that an alarming excitement has been created throughout the Province, by means of Religious Fanaticism and the exertions of designing and restless individuals, who, by misrepresentation and a base system of open and avowed opposition to British Rule, would (if misrepresentation were permitted to prevail uncontradicted) disseminate principles leading to Anarchy and Confusion, and, ultimately, sever this Colony from the British Crown.

WE further beg leave to represent to Your Majesty, that we deem it a duty we owe to Our King, Our Country of Adoption and Birth, and Our-selves, to express, in the most unequivocal terms, our just indignation at **MEN**, whose actions and words cannot fail to convince unprejudiced minds that they aim at disobedience to the Civil Magistrate, and set at defiance Peace, Order and Good Government.

UP to this late period, the Loyal Inhabitants of the District of Niagara have intentionally abstained from any Public Expression of indignation at the seditious acts and selfish designs of the Intriguing Votaries of Democracy; convinced that the Loyalty of the Inhabitants of this Old and Wealthy District, after the privations and sufferings they have already endured in Defence of Your Majesty's Possessions during the late War, fighting under the Immortal **BROCK**, would, to latest Posterity, ensure the confidence of their King.

THAT, as Descendants from British Ancestors and many of us Britons by Birth, we boast of that Origin which claims affinity and Allegiance to the British Crown.

THAT Your Majesty's Subjects resident in the Niagara District, repose unlimited confidence, in the Representative of your Majesty, the Lieutenant Governor of this Province, who, since he assumed the Administration, hath Constitutionally and impartially maintained our civil and religious immunities unimpaired, and the dignity of his exalted situation sacred; thereby, affording the Subject and the Sovereign every assurance that individual rights and the Privileges of the Crown are equally protected, and if properly appreciated, cannot fail to make Upper Canadians happy and contented Subjects.

THAT we have held in reverence, and ever will hold sacred and unimpaired, our Government, framed by British Statesmen, the very image and transcript of England's Constitution, conferred upon our Ancestors under the auspices and Reign of Your Majesty's Parent, of Glorious memory, King George the Third, preserved inviolate to us during the memorable reign of Your Illustrious Predecessor; and, at this epoch of political and religious troubles, is, and will continue to be, the Bulwark of Upper Canadian Civil and Religious Liberty.

WE disclaim the opinion, that we inhabit a colony remote from the Parent, excluded by geographical position, from a direct communication with other Countries by sea; we are not therefore less interested with other Subjects of Your Majesty in every event that can tend to the strength and prosperity of the Empire, and at all times equally bound to share in the dangers and misfortunes of every war which may be necessary to vindicate the honor of Your Majesty's Crown, and to maintain the rights of the British Nation.

HIS Majesty's faithful Subjects the Inhabitants of this District venture to hope that Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to listen to these our sincere and undisguised representations communicated to Your Majesty's Royal Ear, in confirmation of our love for King and Constitution, and to beseech Your Majesty's Government to receive, with suspicion, the representations of visionary enthusiasts, and not "to sacrifice substance to form, the end to the means, or exchange present possessions for uncertain prospects."

That we are contented with our present happy condition, and appreciate the Blessings we have already enjoyed, and, looking forward to Your Majesty's most gracious disposition to perpetuate the continuance of them, unimpaired, to Your Majesty's Loyal Subjects in Upper Canada,—we fervently supplicate the Almighty Disposer of all Events to



prolong Your Majesty's valuable Life, and that he would enable you, for years to come, to continue to sway a Sceptre that is the Pride of Kings and Envy of the World.

Moved by Robert E. Burns, Esq.—

12th. *Resolved*—That the Address to the King, now read, be Approved of, and Adopted, by this Meeting—seconded by Wm. M. Ball.

Moved by R. E. Burns, Esq.—

13th. *Resolved*—That the Address to the King be now signed by those present, and afterwards left at the Inn of James Miller, in Niagara, for signatures—seconded by Robert Melville, Esq.

Moved by P. V. C. Secord :

14th. *Resolved*—That Robert Dickson and Robert E. Burns, Esquires, and Mr. Lewis Clement, be a Committee to wait upon His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor with the Address Adopted and a Copy of the Proceedings, and request Him to transmit the same to His Majesty King William the Fourth—seconded by John Crooks, Esq.

Moved by Robert E. Burns, Esq.—

15th. *Resolved*—That 250 Copies of the Proceedings of this Meeting and the Address Adopted, be printed in Pamphlet form, under the direction of the Committee appointed to wait upon His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor; and who are requested to circulate the same throughout the District, and adopt such measures as they think expedient, to procure more signatures to the Address—seconded by Mr. George Rykert.

The Chairman having left the Chair, and George Ball, Esq. being called thereto—It was moved by Robert Melville, Esq. and seconded by Mr. William Servos—

16th. *Resolved*—That the thanks of this Meeting be given to Mr. James Cooper, the chairman, for his impartial conduct in the Chair, and to Mr. William Duff Miller, Secretary of the Meeting, for his useful services.

Moved by Mr. James Cooper, and seconded by Thomas M' Cormick, Esquire :

17th. *Resolved*—That the thanks of this Meeting be given to Robert Dickson, Esq. for the industry and zeal he has manifested and the useful services he has rendered this Meeting in preparing the Resolutions and Drafting the Address now Adopted.

Moved by Mr. James Cooper, the ex-Chairman, and seconded by Mr. Walter Dittrick :

18th. *Resolved*—That three times three cheers be given for King William the Fourth, and three cheers for the Lieutenant Governor Sir John Colborne, which was carried with enthusiasm.

JAMES COOPER, Chairman.

WILLIAM D. MILLER, Secretary.

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